Sl.No.	Years	Central Release
		(Rs. in lakhs)
1	2003-04	75382.80
2	2004-05	107874.67
3	2005-06	138255.84

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Development has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation of the Programmes through Periodic Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee meetings, Area Officer's Scheme, National Level Monitors, District Level Monitors and Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State/District level.

Wasteland development project from Rajasthan

2391. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajasthan Government has forwarded for approval to the Ministry of Rural Development a proposal of Rs.2,095.08 lakhs for its Seven Projects regarding making of 34,918 hectares of land cultivable under Integrated Wasteland Development Programme;

(b) the reasons for not granting approval to the same, so far; and

(c) by when the same would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The seven projects, infact, are part of the prioritized list of 29 projects furnished by the Government of Rajasthan to the Ministry for sanctioning in 2006-07. The Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC), which also includes Secretary, Rural Development, Rajasthan, taking into account the extent of wasteland in the State, performance of ongoing projects, availability of budget for new projects after deducting the committed liability of ongoing projects across the programme States, approved 22 new IWDP projects for Rajasthan at a total cost of Rs. 6555.12 lakh covering an area of 109252 hectare for treatment. Ministry of Rural Development duly sanctioned these projects

and released the 1st instalment of Rs. 901.329 lakh. With this, remaining 7 projects of the prioritized lists have since been lapsed as per the sanctioning procedure and may not be considered as pending with the Ministry. However, in case, the State Government requires to emplement them, it may re-include them in the prioritized lists of the projects for approval by the PSC during the next year.

High arsenic content in potable water

†2392. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that high arsenic content is found in potable water in various States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that people are suffering from various kinds of diseases as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are formulating any plan with a view to address the problem of arsenic content in the potable water; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that high levels of arsenic content is found in drinking water sources in the rural areas of West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Tripura and Jharkhand, as reported by the concerned State Government, as per Water quality survey ordered in March, 2000 and information compiled and updated as on 1/4/2006.

(b) and (c) Consumption of drinking water containing excess arsenic over a prolonged period of time, may lead to diseases like Arsenicosis, Keratosis.

(d) and (e) For tackling water quality problems due to chemical contamination, which include tackling excess arsenic problems, a Sub-Mission programme was introduced in 1992-93 under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) with funding pattern of 75:25 between the Centre and States. With effect from 1/4/1998, the State Governments

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.